

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2496
INFO DOD/ISA WASHDC
NASA/I WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 0500

DOD/ISA - COL. HARLOW

NASA/I - MR. FRUTKIN

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UN, TSPA, USUN
SUBJECT: OUTER SPACE STSC: REMOTE SENSING WORKING GROUP -
HIGHLIGHTS OF FEBRUARY 18 SESSION

1. AT REMOTE SENSING WORKING GROUP SESSION FEB. 18 ITEMS
DEALT WITH WERE (1) DEFINITION OF TERMS "DATA" AND "INFORMA-
TION," (2) RELEVANCE OF RESOLUTION TO SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL
UTILITY OF DATA; (3) NATURE AND CONTENT OF STUDY NEEDED
TO CLARIFY POINTS(2); AND (4) RELEVANCE AND ACCURACY OF PRIOR
UN REPORTS ON RESOLUTION ISSUE.

2. IN RSWG, WHICH IS PARTICIPATED IN BY MOST MEMBERS OF
STSC REPRESENTED AT THIS SESSION, THE CANADIAN/SWEDISH EFFORTS
TO KEEP DEFINITIONS OF TERMS ON BASIS OF LEGAL S/C WORK HAS
BEEN SUCCESSFUL. PROPOSED SOVIET DEFINITIONS HAVE RECEIVED
NO ATTENTION NOR SUPPORT AS OF FEB. 18. IN JOINT EFFORT WITH
CANADA, SWEDEN, INDIA AND USSR, US DEL FORMULATED THE FOLLOW-
ING DEFINITIONS OF "DATA" AND "INFORMATION;" WHICH ARE WIDELY
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ACCEPTED AT WG LEVEL. AS NOTED BELOW, THESE DEFINITIONS HAVE
LIFETIMES TIED TO PRESENT STATE OF TECHNOLOGY, LARGELY BE-
CAUSE INDIANS (PAL) INSIST THAT LATER SATELLITES MAY INCLUDE
NOT ONLY PRE-PROCESSING CAPABILITY ONBOARD BUT COULD ALSO
MAKE PRELIMINARY SORTING OF DATA STREAMS INTENDED FOR CER-
TAIN USES. (WE HAVE POINTED OUT THAT SUCH APPROACH WOULD
BE VERY EXPENSIVE AND MAY NOT BE ADOPTED.)

3. NEW DEFINITIONS READ: QUOTE

(1) THE TERM "PRIMARY DATA" MEANS THOSE DATA WHICH ARE ACQUIRED BY SATELLITE BORNE REMOTE SENSORS AND TRANSMITTED FROM A SATELLITE EITHER BY TELEMETRY IN THE FORM OF ELECTRO-MAGNETIC SIGNALS OR PHYSICALLY IN ANY FORM SUCH AS PHOTOGRAPHIC FILM OR MAGNETIC TAPE, AS WELL AS THE PRE-PROCESSED PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM THOSE DATA WHICH MAY BE USED FOR LATER ANALYSIS.

(2) THE TERM "ANALYZED INFORMATION" MEANS THE END PRODUCT RESULTING FROM THE ANALYTICAL PROCESS PERFORMED ON THE PRIMARY DATA COMBINED WITH DATA AND KNOWLEDGE OBTAINED FROM SOURCES OTHER THAN THE REMOTE SENSING SATELLITS. UNQUOTE.

4. THUS, WITH PRESENT STATE-OF-THE-ART SYSTEMS, "PRIMARY DATA" REFERS TO THE PRODUCTS INVOLVED IN ELEMENTS 1 THROUGH 4 OF LAST YEAR'S 6 ELEMENT BREAKDOWN (SEE 1976 S&T REPORT AT P.8), AND IS TRANSFORMED INTO "ANALYZED INFORMATION" IN ELEMENT 5.

5. IN THE EXPLANATION OF THE DEFINITIONS IT IS NOTED THAT QUOTE IF SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN REMOTE SENSING TECHNOLOGY SHOULD EMERGE IN PRACTICE, E.G. INCLUDING SOME PROCESSING AND/OR ANALYTICAL FUNCTIONS WITH THE SENSING FUNCTION WITHIN THE SATELLITE, WHICH APPEARS TO BE TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE, THE FOLLOWING DEFINITIONS, AND ANY DECISIONS BASED UPON THEM, MAY HAVE TO BE RE-EXAMINED IN LIGHT OF CONFIDENTIAL

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SUCH TECHNOLOGY CHANGES. UNQUOTE.

6. USSR HAD TAKEN STRONG POSITION EARLIER IN THE SESSION THAT THERE IS NO DEMONSTRABLE, LEGITIMATE NEED IN THE CONTEXT OF "PEACEFUL USES," FOR DATA OF GREATER RESOLUTION THAN 50 METERS. CHALLENGE WAS THROWN DOWN TO DELEGATIONS TO IDENTIFY PEACEFUL USES THAT REQUIRE GREATER THAN 50 METER RESOLUTION. SEVERAL DELS INCLUDING US, UK AND BELGIUM CITED EXAMPLES WHICH FEDOROV CHOSE TO IGNORE AND REPEATEDLY STATE COULD NOT AND WOULD NOT BE FORTH-COMING. FINALLY SOVIETS CHANGED TACK AT FEB. 18 MEETING AND SAID NO ONE COULD CLAIM A LEGITIMATE PEACEFUL USE REQUIRING MORE THAN 50 METER RESOLUTION FOR WHICH PERMISSION WOULD NOT BE READILY GRANTED FOR DISSEMINATION. THIS REVISION OF USSR POSITION LED TO IMMEDIATE DISTINCTION BETWEEN SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL NEEDS AND PHILOSOPHICAL APPROACHES TO INFORMATION. AT CLOSE OF FEB. 18 WG SESSION SOVS WERE LARGELY ISOLATED ON NEED FOR 50 METER CUT-OFF. EVEN ROMANIA IN PLENARY EARLIER THAT DAY NOTED THAT WE DO NOT YET HAVE EXPERIENCE

ENOUGH TO REACH 50 METER OR ANY OTHER DECISION BASED ON
RESOLUTION. WHEN FEDOROV KEPT REPEATING QUESTION "WHAT IS
LEGITIMATE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL NEED TO HAVE DATA OF
GREATER THAN 50 METER RESOLUTION OPENLY DISSEMINATED?" WE
ASKED, "WHAT IS THE LEGITIMATE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL
NEED TO HAVE DATA GREATER THAN 50 METER RESOLUTION RESTRICTED BY CONSENT TO ITS DISSEMINATION?" THERE WAS NO REPLY.
THERE WERE SEVERAL COMMENTS THAT THIS IS NOT REALLY A
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL QUESTION BUT GROWS OUT OF PHILOSOPHICAL APPROACHES OF DIFFERENT STATES TO THE QUESTION OF
INFORMATION FLOW. THIS ELEMENT OF THE WG DEBATE REMAINS
UNRESOLVED AT THIS POINT.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 0500

DOD/ISA - COL. HARLOW

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6A. DURING FEB. 18 WG SESSION US CALLED TO ATTENTION
OF ALL DELS, BUT PARTICULARLY USSR, PRIOR SECRETARIAL
STUDIES WHICH HAVE INCLUDED RECOMMENDATIONS THAT 10 METER
OPERATIONAL RESOLUTION LEVEL WAS GENERALLY DESIRED BY USER
COMMUNITY. WITH ASSISTANCE OF SECRETARIAT US DEL OBTAINED
AND READ ALOUD FROM DOCS. A/AC.105/140 DATED 26 FEB.75;
A/AC.105/156 DATED 20 FEB. 76; AND A/AC.105/157 DATED 5
MARCH 76. ALL THESE DOCS REFER TO SCIENTIFIC DISCIPLINES
REQUIRING RESOLUTION OF LESS THAN 50 METERS AND IN ONE
CASE SUGGESTS A 10 METER LEVEL AS OPTIONAL FOR MOST STUDIES
AND IN ANOTHER CASE SUGGESTS 30 METER LEVEL AS A DESIRABLE
COMPROMISE LEVEL TRADING OFF COSTS VS. UTILITY.

STUDY RECOMMENDING 10 METERS AS OPTIONAL WAS PREPARED FOR SECRETARIAT BY CURRENT MEMBER OF SOV. DEL.

7. INDIA, SUPPORTED BY SEVERAL DELS, SUGGESTED A STUDY TO BE COMMISSIONED BY THE SECRETARIAT TO LOOK AT TECHNICAL BASES FOR ESTABLISHING CLASSES OF DATA. THIS PROPOSAL GENERATED A LENGTHY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS INVOLVING SIX OR CONFIDENTIAL

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EIGHT DELEGATIONS AND REMAINED UNRESOLVED AT CONCLUSION OF WORKING GROUP SESSION. A SMALL INFORMAL MEETING OF INTERESTED DELEGATIONS WAS THEN SET FOR 4 P.M. MONDAY, FEB. 21 AT UN.

8. AT SMALL INFORMAL MEETING ON MONDAY USSR, FRANCE, US, CANADA, SWEDEN, INDIA, BELGIUM, POLAND, AND ONE OR TWO OTHERS APPEARED. PRIMARY WORK CENTERED ON INDIAN PROPOSAL FOR STUDY. END RESULT OF TWO HOUR DISCUSSION WAS CONSENSUS THAT:

(A) STUDY OF TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF DATA WOULD BE PROPOSED WITH A VIEW TO DETERMINING WHETHER CERTAIN ASPECTS, SUCH AS RESOLUTION, SPECTRAL CHARACTERISTICS, POLARIZATION, ETC. COULD BE ASSOCIATED WITH PARTICULAR APPLICATIONS.

(B) THIS ASSESSMENT COULD THEN AID IN DECIDING WHAT RESTRICTIONS, IF ANY, WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO CONSIDER PLACING ON DISSEMINATION OF DATA FROM A TECHNICAL/SCIENTIFIC VIEWPOINT.

(C) THE DECISION TO PROPOSE RESTRICTIONS ON SUCH BASES WOULD BE FOR THE LEGAL S/C OR THE MAIN COMMITTEE, NOT FOR THE STSC.

(D) THE STUDY SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN IN-HOUSE AT NO ADDITIONAL FUNDING AND COULD DRAW UPON EXPERTS OR ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FIELD TO THE EXTENT THEY WOULD VOLUNTARILY CONTRIBUTE INFORMATION.

(E) STUDY TO BE COMPLETED BY NEXT STSC SESSION.

9. UNLESS DEPT. PERCEIVES SOME OBJECTION, DEL PROPOSES SUPPORT RECOMMENDATION ON THIS STUDY. SUCH ACTION WILL:

(1) TERMINATE FOR TIME BEING TALK ABOUT 50 METER OR 10 CONFIDENTIAL

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METER CUT-OFF FOR DATA DISSEMINATION; (2) PROVIDE USG SEVERAL MONTHS TO DEVELOP VIEWS AND ARGUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED TO SECRETARIAT FOR INCLUSION IN STUDY; (3) KEEP THE LEGAL SC IN ABEYANCE FOR ONE YEAR AWAITING RESULTS; AND (4) KEEP PARENT COMMITTEE DEPENDENT UPON SCIENTIFIC/TECHNICAL WORK BEFORE PROCEEDING TO ANY DEFINITIVE WORK ON RESTRICTIVE RS PRINCIPLES.

10. IF ALTERNATE COURSE OF ACTION TO BE TAKEN, DEPT. SHOULD CONTACT DOYLE BY PHONE ASAP WITH GUIDANCE.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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